

as we have seen too often lately, these precursors to violence and the murder of innocents have not been eradicated. We have seen a resurgence of anti-Semitism in many places in Europe. We have seen religious extremists in the Middle East and elsewhere carrying out horrendous atrocities against others in the misused name of their God. We have seen ethnic differences lead to genocide in Africa—a tragic event whose 10th anniversary we marked just a few days ago.

Mr. Speaker, let us recommit ourselves to fight against the intolerance and bigotry that led to the Holocaust and that continues to produce such suffering and tragedy in our world. Let us recommit ourselves to respect for individual differences and to fight for human rights.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the national commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Today the Congress will stop to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. That dark time in history taught us lessons which we must always remember, and which must guide our future. We know the depths to which humanity can descend; we know how millions of people can embrace evil; and we know that it must never happen again.

Indeed, from that terrible moment in history, the world took up a battle cry against bigotry and hatred: "Never again." As the world's only superpower, it is our responsibility to make that statement an element of our foreign policy. The United States must be ever vigilant in preventing genocide, as we did in Kosovo. We must be willing to stand up quickly and forcefully to the ideology of hate, wherever we find it.

We must be vigilant at home, as well. This vigilance requires us to tell the story of the Holocaust to each other and to our children. We owe nothing less to the survivors and to the brave men who fought to liberate the Ghettos and the death camps. We also owe this debt to the men and women who, in the midst of Holocaust, stood out as some of humanity's brightest lights: Raoul Wallenberg and Per Anger provided nearly 100,000 Hungarian Jews with fake passports and other tools to escape Nazi persecution. Oskar Schindler's employment of Polish Jews spared thousands from death. In Denmark, entire fishing communities helped ferry almost 90 percent of Denmark's Jews to safety in Sweden. These stories must be told.

On this day when the Congress stops to remember the six million people slaughtered in the Holocaust, I hope that we also recall these incredible stories of courage and of the good that humanity can achieve, even in the midst of unspeakable horror.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE HOLOCAUST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to the Day of Remembrance for the Heroes and Martyrs of the Holocaust. Today is the National Commemoration day, and the Rotunda of the Capitol again will serve as the focal point of America's obligation to remember. Sadly, the Holocaust is not old news, even though the last camp was liberated in 1945, even though the last victim was killed in 1945, even though the Nazi regime fell in 1945.

Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust is a current event. It is not then, it is now. It is today, it is this moment. Today in America, Holocaust survivors are still struggling to win back their lost property and overdue compensation. Today in Europe, on the same streets the Nazis declared Judenrein—Jew-free—Jews are again being attacked and assaulted. Today around the world, newspapers and media outlets are spewing vicious, venomous anti-Semitic lies and incitement. Today in other countries, ethnic cleansing is taking place. Today, intolerance, xenophobia, racism, and anti-Semitism are realities in our world, and we cannot ignore this fact.

Our obligation as a nation which has adopted the ethos of "Never Again," at a very bare minimum, is to remember. Our national commitment to remember the Holocaust is worth reflecting on and is something we can be proud of as long as we remain vigilant and aware of the unique nature of this tragedy in human history.

The American people's commitment is embodied in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and its ongoing mission. The American public also gives generously to non-profit groups that develop and share Holocaust education programs around the country. And most importantly, the United States remains an active and vocal supporter of universal human rights and guardian against the continued risk of genocide. There is, unfortunately, a justification for this activity beyond good heartedness.

The shame of this country's refusal to either admit Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution or even to bomb the railway lines to the concentration camps will forever remain a blackmark on our national honor. While this loathsome chapter of our national history cannot be unwritten, we can and must pursue policies that ensure such tragedies never occur again. Refugees continue to deserve the protection and assistance of the United States, and we must never be afraid to intervene to prevent genocide or ethnic cleansing.

We must also continue to build and strengthen the bonds of friendship and support between this nation and the State of Israel, which emerged out of the ashes of the Holocaust. While much of the world quibbles over, or disputes entirely, the right of the Jewish people to establish a state in their historic homeland, the United States has never for a moment doubted the rightness and morality of this enterprise or questioned the right of the Jewish people to have a state of their own. In-

deed, many of those states which either assisted the Nazis in the liquidation of their Jewish populations, or simply sat by quietly as the Nazis fulfilled their vicious agenda, are today among Israel's most vigorous critics.

By contrast, the United States is, and I hope always will be, Israel's closest ally and friend in the international community. I am proud of America's support for Israel, and I think it is no coincidence that the United States and this Congress do so much answer the call of memory the Holocaust demands.

Today in the Capitol we recall the stark facts of the Holocaust: that in the years between 1933 and 1945, a modern, cultured, Western nation transformed from a democracy into a dictatorship; that this dictatorship initiated a war not only against the nations of Europe, but against the Jewish people; that to fulfill the mandate of genocide Nazi Germany established ghettos, special military killing units, a bureaucracy to manage the construction and operation of the concentration camps, slave labor camps and extermination camps, and a transportation system to bring Europe's Jews to their doom; and that at the end of the Nazis' regime, their campaign of persecution and annihilation had systematically murdered some 6,000,000 innocent Jews.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember this. To ignore the Holocaust is to risk its repetition and to clear a path for deniers and bigots and their agenda of hate. The Holocaust must be remembered. As a moral nation, we can do no less.

COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we join together at the United States Capitol to observe the national commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Also known as Yom HaShoah, a Hebrew term for "The Holocaust," this is an internationally recognized day set aside each year to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to remind each of us what can happen when bigotry and hatred are not confronted.

The Holocaust's magnitude of destruction with more than 12 million deaths—6 million Jews, including 1.5 million children (more than 2/3 of European Jewry) and 6 million others—challenges comprehension. Studying the Holocaust presents a framework of many relevant moral issues. The Holocaust illustrates the consequences of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society. It forces us to examine the responsibilities of citizenship and confront the powerful ramifications of indifference and inaction. The Holocaust also shows us how a combination of events and attitudes can erode a society's democratic values.

As we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, we must acknowledge that anti-Semitism and other dangers still exist. Acts of anti-Semitism in countries throughout the world, including some of the world's strongest democracies, have increased significantly in frequency and scope over the last several years. During the first 3 months of 2004, there were numerous instances of anti-Semitic violence around the world. For instance:

In Australia, poison was used to ignite, and burn anti-Semitic slogans into, the lawns of the Parliament House in the state of Tasmania;

In St. Petersburg, Russia, vandals desecrated approximately 50 gravestones in a Jewish cemetery, painting the stones with swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti;

In Toulon, France, a Jewish synagogue and community center were set on fire;

And just 4 weeks ago in Toronto, Canada, vandals attacked a Jewish school, a Jewish cemetery, and area synagogues, painting swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on the walls of a synagogue and on residential property in a nearby, predominantly Jewish, neighborhood.

Anti-Semitism in old and new forms is also increasingly emanating from the Arab and Muslim world on a sustained basis, including through books published by government-owned publishing houses throughout the Arab region.

The sharp rise in anti-Semitic violence has caused international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to elevate, and bring renewed focus to, the issue, including the convening by the OSCE in June 2003 of a conference in Vienna dedicated solely to the issue of anti-Semitism. The OSCE will again convene a conference dedicated to addressing the problem of anti-Semitism on April 28–29, 2004, in Berlin, with the United States delegation to be led by former Mayor of New York City Ed Koch.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the manner in which Congress has consistently supported efforts to address the rise in anti-Semitic violence. In that spirit we must ensure the United States Government remains strongly committed to supporting international efforts to address anti-Semitism through bilateral relationships and interaction with international organizations such as the OSCE, the European Union, and the United Nations. It is in this spirit that we can truly say, "Never Again."

ON THE OCCASION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues to commemorate Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, which memorializes the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

We mourn the innocent lives and vibrant communities destroyed while the world shamefully stood silent. We encourage the advancement of Holocaust education and we must continue the battle against resurgent anti-Semitism and intolerance around the world.

We must also do more to stop the steady stream of hatred. The dramatic rise of anti-Semitic attacks and Holocaust denials in Europe and in Arab countries is unacceptable.

We shall never forget the horrific crimes of murder and destruction committed by the Nazis. We firmly commit ourselves to ensuring that future generations shall never be forced to endure the suffering, humiliation, and ultimate

death experienced by the victims of the Holocaust. We commit ourselves—as a country and as human beings—to never allow the pleas of those in need to ever again go unanswered.

We recommit ourselves to stand against anti-Semitism, discrimination, and intolerance in all forms—at home and abroad. As we reflect upon the murder of 6 million innocent Jewish men, women and children, and the systematic destruction of families and vibrant communities, we reestablish our determination to confront the past, and our dedication to perpetuating the memory of those who suffered. We shall never forget.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the tragic horror of the Holocaust. The memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis must never be forgotten.

Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, stands as the day when people all over the world remember the inhuman actions of Nazis and the righteous actions of heroes.

Six million people were murdered in concentration camps, in homes, on the street, and in the ghettos.

Their lives were lost and all that is left are memories and mementos.

We must remember the lives of those who perished during the Holocaust. We must teach the children of the horror and terror that can happen when the world turns the other way and refuses to notice hatred and bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism.

When I visited Israel and Yad va Shem, I remember walking into the Hall of Remembrance and seeing the single memorial flame casting light in the dark room.

The memorial light always burns never forgetting what took place during the Holocaust. It is this light that I think of when I hear that Temple Emanu-El in San Bernardino held an interfaith ceremony commemorating the Holocaust.

But commemoration should not end with Holocaust Remembrance Day. Throughout the year, whenever we see the injustice of anti-Semitism and the injustice of racism we need to remember the Holocaust and speak out.

All over Europe, the Middle East and North America, anti-Semitic acts occur with disheartening frequency. We must speak out against these attacks. We must speak out against the stereotypes and anti-Semitic forgeries seen on the Internet and in the foreign press. We must speak out against all racist and bigoted actions.

We must be vigilant, so that we can say that the Holocaust will never happen again.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom

Hashoah, Holocaust Martyr's and Heroes Remembrance Day. I join the people of Israel and those around the world to memorialize the 6 million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

In 1933, there were over 9 million European Jews. By 1945, close to two out of every three had been killed as part of the Nazi's Final Solution. European cities have never recovered the diversity and way of life they had prior to the war. The Jewish people killed were teachers, lawyers, doctors, musicians, parents, and children. These innocents were killed because they were Jewish and targeted for no other reason, they were no different from you or I.

There are few Holocaust survivors alive and it is important for them to share their stories and educate people about the Holocaust, here and abroad. Over 50 years have passed since the Holocaust but anti-Semitism still exists. There has been an upsurge of anti-Semitism overseas and it must stop before there are further extreme acts.

We must also remember the others who were murdered for being different. Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny for no specific reason except they were different.

The Holocaust was not an accident. It was a planned attempted extermination. Individuals, organizations and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately, mass murder to occur. As a global society we must work to ensure something like this does not occur again.

We will never forget.

SO THAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER FORGET: REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join with my community and my colleagues to recognize Yom HaShoah, the day established to remember the state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Yom HaShoah, the Hebrew word for destruction, is the term used to describe the war that swept up the souls of six million Jews between 1938 and 1945. A war in which unspeakable atrocities were perpetrated against a defenseless and blameless people, whose only "crime" was their religious beliefs.

Men and women, young and old alike, perished at the hands of the Nazis and their allies. Every year, on Yom HaShoah, we remember the martyrs who perished in the camps, in the ghettos, and in the gas chambers.

It has been 60 years since the Holocaust. To survivors, and those who lost friends and family members, it remains real and ever-present. But to many people, who did not directly experience the Holocaust or have a connection to those who did, 60 years makes the Holocaust seem like ancient history.